

Earl Street Reconstruction Project

Michel Taylor

The city has big plans for Earl St., which will be done in two stages. They will replace the street surface, sidewalks, curbs, pedestrian ramps, lighting, and underground utilities. These improvements will be fully funded by the 1% sales tax (Common Cents Sales Tax), and is the first among these projects to be completed.

Phase one construction will begin in 2026 and will be from Maryland Avenue to Minnehaha Avenue. Phase two will start in 2027 and reach from Minnehaha Avenue to Burns Avenue. Some of the project's priorities are pavement quality, bicycle infrastructure, tree canopy, and parking.

There will be other street disruptions coming up in the next year on East 7th St. and Minnehaha Avenue and Arcade. There will be more about that in future issues. Meanwhile, we will have to navigate the detours and find alternative routes.



Lights and Frights Bus Tour, December 20

Bick Smith
CynCity Tours

The tour starts in the big parking lot at Saint Paul Brewing at 6:30 p.m., exploring beautiful holiday lights with plenty of local ghost stories throughout the two-hour trip!

Be entertained by costumed guides who provide plenty of spooky to go along with the winter sparkle! Tour ends with a two-for-one beer deal at Saint Paul Brewing included with each \$43 ticket. Make reservations at: cyncitytours.com

CynCity is also the official tour company of the Saint Paul Winter Carnival! We will be hosting tours each day of the Carnival. The schedule is not yet finalized but check back at a later date for more information!

See You in February!

With the holidays just around the corner, we are taking a break to spend time with our families, friends, and neighbors.

We will not have a **January** issue, but please keep your eye out for our on-line-only February issue!

Stay safe during the holidays and enjoy the many events St. Paul has to offer! *Happy holidays, Dayton's Bluff!*

Friends of Swede Hollow

If you have a passion for history and preserving nature, please join us for our monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month.

Our meetings are held at St. John's Lutheran Church at 765 Margaret St., back entrance. For the most accurate information on the next meeting, email Michel or follow us on Facebook.

The meeting is **December 16** and starts at **6:30 p.m.** and is an excellent resource for park updates and events. For more updates email taylor672@comcast.net or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on **Friday, December 5 at 11 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, email daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

We are currently meeting at the Dayton's Bluff Library.

Need Groceries?

If you are 60 or older, you may be eligible to receive a box of nutritious food every month from Second Harvest.

This box is part of a program called NAPS, and we can help you apply!

Give us a call at 651-683-2326, and someone will assist you with your application.

Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare beneficiaries at community partner sites.

Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people understand their Medicare options.

Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police hosts their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Police Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Police meetings are held at **9 a.m. and 6 p.m.** on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call Robyn Brewin at 651-266-5580 or email RobynBrewin@StPaul.gov to ensure the meetings have not been canceled.

New National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Text or Dial. 988 was recently launched as an alternative to calling 911.

Xcel Phone Numbers



Gas Leak: 800-895-2999. Power Outage: 800-895-1999.

Call 811 before you dig: Before starting that ro-

to-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for *anything*, call 811.

At no charge, Xcel will have a trained technician check the area on your property or on the boulevard to make sure there are no wires, pipes, or other hidden surprises in the designated digging area. Usually, someone checks within a day, marking the 'no-dig' area with painted lines, and everyone is safe!

Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the meeting on **Monday, December 15 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street.

Come meet your neighbors, share your ideas, hear from others, and elect board members. Your voice matters!

Welcome address from the Board President, remarks from other local officials, and open discussion with your neighbors and board members are on the schedule. Looking forward to seeing you and serving your neighborhood needs. All are welcome.

Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 1-888-575-2954 or go to smrls.org to see if you qualify for free legal assistance with: family law, government benefits, housing, education, seniors, and more. You can also call if you're behind on your bills, having problems with credit or creditors, or have other civil legal issues, etc. If an interpreter is needed, SMRLS will provide one.

Hours: **Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:45 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m.**



THE HISTORIC
MOUNDS
THEATRE

December 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, & 21. It's An Honorable Life. In this annual Mounds Theatre holiday play, a Klingon fears he is too great a warrior to die in battle and will instead die of old age. Q leads him on a journey through his life in this mixture of Star Trek and holiday classics. The show is presented primarily in Klingon with projected English supertitles. Showtimes: Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at

2:30 p.m.

Visit moundstheatre.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com.

Chess Club

Come join us at Karibu Grocery and Deli, located at 719 Payne Ave. in St. Paul for a weekly game of chess. All levels are welcome. We play every **Wednesday from 6-9 p.m.**



Apply for Homestead Classification Online

Ramsey County's new online homestead application portal is now open. Property owners can easily apply for homestead classification through the county's Smart-File system at RamseyCountyMN.gov/homestead.

Homestead classification may provide a property tax reduction for residents who own and occupy their home as their primary residence. Applicants can create an account to complete the online application, upload required documents and receive updates about their submission.

Residents should be prepared to provide proof of ownership and occupancy as part of the process. Processing times may vary based on application volume.

For questions or assistance, contact the Assessor's Office at 651-266-2040 or askhomesteads@ramseycounty.us.

 RAMSEY COUNTY

Christmas Past

Michel Taylor

Only those old enough remember that downtown St. Paul was the center of all the excitement you could hope for. This meant the soda fountain at Woolworth's, Winter Carnival festivities, baby chickens and ducks for sale at Easter, an elevator to the top of the 1st National Bank, and visiting dignitaries which included Santa.

Nothing can match the wonder a child experiences during Christmas. It was a holiday ritual for our family to pile into the station wagon and drive around the city looking at decorations. In my parents' opinion, it was the best free show in town. After the chaos of a family of seven finding their hats and mittens and some whining from my brother who had to wear my sister's red snowsuit that she had outgrown, we headed out.

Sometimes, Dad would have to put chains on the tires just to get out of our long driveway, but we were not to worry because he was a professional truck driver and could navigate this without any problem. My father was a sailor during WWII and after much cursing, we slid our way downtown. By then, I thought dad was pushing his luck because I knew two people who were pretty upset with him, God and Santa, and it was only a week before Christmas, and he had no time to make amends.

Long before we reached downtown, we saw the glow. Every building was alight with decorations in the windows and tons of spray-on snow which was so popular back then. Fashion draped man-

nequins were replaced with animated figures playing out popular Christmas themes. There were the old streetlights dripping with garland and plastic frosted snowflakes. Policemen would be standing in the middle of the street with their whistles going, directing the multiple city buses or the shoppers who were finishing their holiday shopping at the Emporium or The Golden Rule. We were more of a Robert Hall or Grant's type of family, and these stores were out of our league. These shoppers had on fancy hats and fur lined coats the likes of which only Grandma owned and that she wore for Sunday church. This was a Christmas wonderland and we were fascinated.

Next, we headed up to see the elaborate home decorations on Wheelock Parkway. This was where the elite folks lived on the North End of St. Paul and it was close to home. They seemed to have some kind of a competition going on up there because each home was better than the previous one. By now, Mom and Dad were sick of all the quibbling going on in the back seats vying for the windows, as we made our way home.

Once we were home, there would be a race for a spot in front of the hot air vents. Mom would pull out her big kettle and make hot chocolate from Hershey's cocoa powder and sugar. None of that new Swiss Miss for us. Maybe Dad would do some more shoveling and come in and pour himself a cup of hot coffee.

Life was good and these are sweet memories. I once read that it's normal to look back on the past but that you shouldn't stare. That's hard advice to follow this time of the year.

December at the Library Crossword Puzzle

by the Dayton's Bluff Library Staff



WORD KEY (Answers on page 7)

- Teen Tuesday
- Teen Writers Guild
- winter break
- Teens Know Best
- Micro Gallery
- Teen Dungeons and Dragons
- Gordon Parks Collection
- pop up cards
- Renaissance Man
- Perler bead decorations
- Funlab
- hang out
- snowshoeing
- computers
- Minnesota
- books
- Daytons Bluff
- hat knitting

Steve

Continued From Page 1

He conducted informational walking tours in Loring Park, downtown Minneapolis, Swede Hollow Park, and Dayton's Bluff. Steve has been a longtime member of the neighborhood group Friends of Swede Hollow and was a board member on the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. He went from there to the Minnesota Legislature where he served for 14 years. Besides having a membership on the Ramsey County Historical Society's editorial board, he has also served on the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission.

In 1982 he became a founding member of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum and had been an active participant up until his recent move. I always looked forward to his history articles that gave us a glimpse of how folks lived in our neighborhood in the 19th century. He also wrote a column on different independently owned restaurants he had visited on the East Side. Not only was he a food critic but he gave us the backstory on the owners as well. He seemed to favor Asian food, a

taste of which maybe was acquired when he lived in Nagasaki, Japan while teaching English.

Long before this, Steve had a fascination with food and cooking. He authored a community cookbook called what else but "Community Cooking." An avid collector of Minnesota recipes he is founder of the Minnesota Cookbook Archives at Metropolitan State University. He is also author of two other books, "In the Shadow of the City," and "Historic Photos of St. Paul." Even though Steve is now residing in Lynblomsten Care Center, he continues to write. On the table are his beloved buffalo figurines, the favorites out of his collection, and on the walls are countless works of art from local artists.

What draws me to Steve is his interest in humanity. Not only does this make him an excellent listener but his perspective is always so earthy. He understands his fellow man's struggles. He is still interested in learning, something we often discard as we age. His curiosity is going strong along with his sense of humor, we have enjoyed some good chuckles together. As I read over what I have written, I realize how many contribution he has made to build community. It's quite an example and legacy to leave with us, Steve.

Your donation can really make a difference

Join us Friday, January 23 from 3-5 p.m. at St. Paul Brewing!

Come learn about our newspaper and how you can help.

We hope to see you at the event!

Swede Hollow B&B

Experience a Victorian Christmas at Swede Hollow B&B. Located in a historic Hamm's mansion directly across from Swede Hollow Park. Snuggle up in the tower as you overlook the city and learn about the past of this hidden area.

Reservations at Airbnb and VRBO.

DONATE TODAY



Make it a Handmade Holiday with Saint Paul Public Library

Looking for a creative way to spread some holiday cheer this year? Skip the crowded stores and make your gifts at the library instead! If you'd rather learn from home, all library card holders now have free access to Craft and Hobby, offering in-depth online classes across 22 creative categories. Learn new skills anytime, anywhere — from watercolor painting to woodworking — with step-by-step lessons from world-renowned instructors. Learn more at spl.org/resource/craft-hobby. So, grab your library card and get ready to make something this holiday season — because the best gifts come from the heart.

Drop in to hang out and make cool stuff at FunLab! Featuring crafts, science experiments, engineering projects, video games, and more. This STEAM drop-in program is designed for ages 7-11. FunLab! is every Saturday at Dayton's Bluff Library from 2:30-4 p.m.

December 6: Learn how to start snowshoeing across Minnesota's state parks with the MN DNR (Open to all ages)

December 13: Make Perler Bead Decorations

December 20: Make Pop-up Cards

December has a 5th Tuesday and it's Winter Break, so we'll be having Teen Tuesday! We'll learn hat knitting using handheld machine looms to create winter hats along with the regular Teen Tuesday activities. On the 5th Tuesday of the month we hang out, play games, listen to music, make art, power up the PS5, try out the 3D printer, and more. This is a casual time to be creative, meet your friends (or even make new ones!), eat snacks, and generally be yourself.

Tuesdays are Teen Tuesdays @ Dayton's Bluff library: Teen Dungeons and Dragons every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Teens Know Best every 2nd Tuesday, and Teen Writers' Guild every 4th Tuesday. Teen Tuesdays are the 5th (if there is one) Tuesday and are a teen maker/hang out space with music, projects, computers, and snacks. All Tuesday programs take place from 6:30-8 p.m.

Try a new art project each month at

our Art Class for adults at Dayton's Bluff Library! On December 8th from 6-7:30 p.m., decorate tote bags! All materials provided, just bring your ideas!

Check out the Gordon Parks Collection at Dayton's Bluff Library. Gordon Parks is the definition of a Renaissance Man and had a long and prolific career that started as a fashion photographer in St. Paul. He expanded beyond fashion to become the first Black man to be a staff photographer for Life Magazine. He also was an accomplished writer, director, and composer.

Parks became the first Black man to direct a Hollywood studio film, an adaptation of his novel, *The Learning Tree*, which led into him directing *Shaft*, an influential film in the blaxploitation genre. He wrote fiction, memoirs, and poetry, some of which he accompanied with his own photography. Come into Dayton's Bluff Library and check out some of his vast body of work!

Dayton's Bluff Micro Gallery Call for Artists. Dayton's Bluff Library is looking for artists, crafters, and collectors to display their work to the community. Our Micro Gallery is a lit, locked, glass display case in the hub of our library. Located at 645 East 7th Street, Dayton's Bluff Library is a vibrant branch of the Saint Paul Public Library on the campus of Metropolitan State University. Displays rotate monthly. Items can be no larger than 12" w X 15" d X 15" h and there are four shelves available. Please keep content suitable for the general public. While we will list contact information for artists, we cannot sell artwork. Submit a sample photo of what you would like to display to daytonsbuff@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call 651-793-1699 for more information.

Artists of all ages and talents are wanted. We are especially looking for East Side residents.

All Saint Paul Public Libraries will be closed **Wednesday, December 24th** and **Thursday, December 25th** for Christmas, and **Thursday, January 1st** for New Year's Day.

Dayton's Bluff Library, as part of the Metro State campus, will also be closed **December 26-28th**. There will be no Fun Lab! on 12/27 due to the Metro State campus holiday closure.

We will also close at **5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31** for New Year's Eve.



Saint Paul Public Library

Try a new art project each month at our Art Class for adults at Dayton's Bluff Library! All materials provided, just bring your ideas — though sometimes the project requires a picture that you bring. All specifications listed in each month's events at spl.org/events or at the library.

Glen Mansfield Remembered

Greg Cosimini

Anyone who has lived in the Earl-Hudson area of Dayton's Bluff over the past 30 years probably knows Glen Mansfield or at least recognized him when they saw him. Besides frequenting some of the local establishments, he also worked to make the neighborhood a better place to live. Unfortunately, Glen died in early February after a five-year battle with cancer.



Glen was an independent soul who liked to live life on his own terms. Having worked at being an auto mechanic, a cab driver and many other jobs in the past, he built up a tremendous store of knowledge on many subjects.

He was a jack of all trades and a master of some. There was almost nothing he couldn't repair including bicycles, lawn mowers, snowblowers, cars, trucks, RVs and boats. He was always finding discarded items, fixing them up and often just giving them away.

He made his living doing odd jobs around the neighborhood. In winter he plowed and shoveled snow. During the rest of the year he mowed lawns, took care of yards and gardens, trimmed trees, built fences and stairways, hauled junk, and still found time to go to the lake and enjoy nature. He helped with the Mounds Theatre renovation and planted flowers here and there to make the neighborhood nicer. No job was too large or small for him to tackle. However, when the work-

load was too heavy for just one person, he found people who needed a job and shared his earnings with them. He was always there to help those less fortunate than himself.

Glen liked to walk, bike or drive around the neighborhood, talking to anyone he met and keeping an eye out for unusual conditions and activities. If something happened in the streets and alleys, it was highly probable that Glen had the scoop on it.

Having lived a colorful existence for many years, Glen had plenty of stories to tell. Most are lost now but in 2013 he did

publish a small collection of them in a book titled "Collage of True Short Stories." It is still available from Amazon. It includes stories about a Christmas when he was a boy, a turtle, a little bird, and his experiments concerning how people could get disoriented in water and drown.

Glen also announced in the book that he planned to run as a write-in candidate for president of the United States in

2016. His platform was based on his "New World Wide Monetary System to Provide Immediate Full Employment at the Cost of Living to Bring an Abrupt End to World Hunger and Economic Strife." He had been working on this system for 35 years and regularly produced updated white papers detailing his latest version. He sent these to politicians from the local level all the way up to President.

In 2005 Glen ran for mayor of Saint Paul. He participated in a mayoral debate but didn't make it through the primary election. He often talked of running again but never got around to it.

His family held a well-attended celebration of life for Glen in Mounds Park in July.



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Dayton's Bluff
District Forum

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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106
E-mail: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble
Editor/layout: Allison Lund-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher
Staff: Mandy Okonek

Next issue: **February. Deadline for content January 10.**

Sage

Continued from Page 1

Education was Sage Holben's next journey and very important to her — she got an associate degree in Marketing Management from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) in 1981, which is in Green Bay, Wisconsin. One of her instructors told the graduates what to look for in a job interview as we got closer to graduation. This was in the early 1980s, and it was difficult for women to get higher paying jobs like it had been for quite a while. She would tell the students what to look for and what could and couldn't be asked at an interview and what to expect. The students had been told throughout their time in school that what they learned was beyond what was being taught at the University of Wisconsin because the graduates of MWTC left the school with jobs.

"So, when I had my job interview," Sage said, "it was for Leisure Systems — a franchise company. We were the franchisees for all the Safaris and Jellystone Campgrounds in the United States, most of Canada, and also Pip Franchises. We were the owners of the Wisconsin franchises, and I was interviewing for the job of advertising manager. It was the first real job out of technical school, and it was the first job I had that wasn't a service job like waitressing. The president of the company was interviewing me along with the person who would be my immediate manager, and he asked me, 'Do you have children?' That was a question that should not be asked during an interview, and I said, 'If you tell me how that applies to my job, we can discuss it.'

"I moved to Iowa, was unemployed and didn't have a place to live, and within a few months I was enrolled in William Penn College, in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where I got my bachelor's degree in sociology in 1997."

Sage came to St. Paul on January 6, 1999, because she was offered a job and started in the university library at Metropolitan State University. She had been liv-

ing and working in Iowa, but Sage needed a change in jobs and applied at Metropolitan State University and got the job.

When Sage first moved here, she didn't have a place to stay, and somebody told her about a youth hostel in Minneapolis. She stayed there for a couple weeks, and then moved to an apartment on Western Ave. "I lived there for about a year," Sage said, "then I moved to 321 Maria (right down the street) and lived there for a couple years then moved here. The person who is my landlord came down the street to my workplace and she said, 'We want you to move into our apartment.' I looked at it and said that I am not interested now, but I'll let you know. 'No,' she said, 'we want you to rent it.' So, that's how I came to be here. I was in my 50s then, and I had a good job, and maybe I just had a sparkling personality."

"I started Movies on the Porch the second year after I moved here," Sage said, and I was rather presumptuous in what I could do. I got a projector, and someone gave me a screen from a school that was cleaning out some stuff, and I thought what a neat idea. There were a lot of kids in our neighborhood at the time, and they would be up at my house, but I still don't know what attracted them. The kids who came to my porch were seven or eight years old and maybe a little older. The kids would come over to my house, and we would read books, and I would have craft projects on the porch.

"I thought that movies would be a good thing to have because if somebody was coming up the street, they could see the movie on the back of the movie screen. It was something that we could do in the evening with the kids, and they would ride their bikes to my porch. I thought it was such a good way of entertaining, and I thought I have a VHS and a CD player and the projector, so it was a great idea, and we can do this by just bringing people together. People would stop by and see what is going on, and we would invite anybody who walked by, so it was kids and adults and sometimes strangers."

In 2006, Sage's title was a library technician, and her job was to purchase books requested by faculty, purchase books se-

lected by the library, and to catalogue and preview some books as far as content. Now that process is called vetting. Sage remembers when he first came to Metropolitan State University, and at that time, the library had already been through one director, and three staff persons were making decisions for a while, which was just before Barton came to the library. David Barton started as the director, and he later found out he had a brain tumor, which led to his retirement. Here is a story about Barton that Sage enjoys telling, "David and I used to talk when we were in the computer library, and I was also a union steward for AFSCME, which is a union for county employees. One employee at Metro State had an issue with a faculty member, and I was emailing the employee back saying this what I see in this relationship. I said that I saw this kind of personality problem with this person and the faculty person. I accidentally sent that email to both the employee and the faculty person, so she saw the comment I made about her. It wasn't a negative comment, it was just an observation, and she took issue about that with me. Then she made a complaint about me to the administration.

"Then there was a big administration meeting about whether I should be fired from Metropolitan State University. Sid was there, and he was the lead person from the AFSCME council, and several other people were there. David Batton was present, and I thanked him for that because he didn't have to be there as he didn't have anything to do with it. Afterward, they found me not guilty of anything. After the meeting, as we were walking back to the offices, I thanked David, and he said, "'I wouldn't have done that for anyone else.' And that just touched my heart."

"There was another thing that happened when we were in the computer lab," Sage said, "and this shows how I had trouble standing up for myself, David had submitted some book titles, and I saw that these books were for high school students. I saw this because sometimes you do want something at different or lower level. I wanted to be sure because there is money involved, and that was my job to

vet it, so I asked him what he wanted, and he said 'Yes, your job isn't to ask questions; it is to do as you are told.' So, I said, Okay, and I made a little sign I still have that says (My job isn't to question; it is to do as I am told, by David Barton). I put it right by my doorway so he could see it every time he walked by. When he died, his wife called me, and she said, 'David loved his Italian speed bike, and he wanted to leave it to you with all its gadgets because of the work you do with the neighborhood kids.' That's something he remembered. They delivered the bike and said, 'You can do what you want with it, or give it to a child who needs or wants a bike, or you can keep it.'"

Sage's activism and advocacy was born out of the love of people (young or old). Here is a story that reflects that, "There were two boys that lived next door who weren't here for the movies, Kayvon and Javon. I have a lawn mower in my kitchen, and I read an article a few years back about how this young boy in my neighborhood wanted to earn some money, and he didn't have access to a lawn mower, and this couple over on the other side of Mounds Boulevard sent me a check for a hundred dollars for a lawn mower. I put in 25 more dollars for a lawn mower, so Javon could have a lawn mower to earn some money. It's one of these things where one little thing leads to another, and it teaches you something.

"Anyway, the lawn mower is in my kitchen now, and things didn't work out with the two young men. I have been trying for a couple years now to find somebody who has a place to keep the mower. Preferably someone in Dayton's Bluff and preferably a child, but if it is a child, he or she needs an adult to oversee it, and teach the values of hard work and responsibility. Everything like that, I think, comes with a lesson to be taught — different ways work with different people: whether it's with gentleness or military type rules."

—Mark Gallagher

Mark Gallagher is the Associate Editor and a freelance writer. Mark can be reached at refineeditorial@gmail.com



Come meet Jesus
during the Christmas Season

God's Blessing of Hope
worship 10:30am 11/30

"All Music Christmas"
The Capital City Wind Ensemble
worship 10:30am 12/7

God's Blessing of Peace
worship 10:30am 12/14

God's Blessing of Joy
worship 10:30am 12/21

Christmas Eve Candlelight
service
worship 5:00pm, Wed. 12/24

1049 Euclid Street, St Paul, 55106
651-774-8736

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

Sunday worship is live-streamed, accessible anytime at: moundsparkumc.org

Merry Christmas from Our family
at Kendall's Ace Hardware!

840 Payne Ave., St. Paul

651-776-6996



View From My Porch

Lost Souls or Real People

Sage Holben

What becomes of the "lost souls" once they are exorcized from the Maryland/Clarence strip mall? Will the City of Saint Paul treat the 30 or so individuals as a homogenized group, though they are of varying ages and other qualities and goals? Will the city treat this group as it treats those in homeless encampments?

Once the strip mall privately owned parking lot is cleared of the souls wandering from vehicle to vehicle as directed by an OG (old gangster) who appears to regulate where to position any of the youth who are dropped off at the strip mall. The Vape store seems to be a popular first stop, afterward gathering as a small group and then dispersing — some to the city bus kiosk, laying claim to its shelter which often means verbally or physically pushing would-be transit riders out to the sidewalks. Others position themselves at the doors of individual businesses.

From my personal perspective I am not intimidated by their appearance or presence. However, I know that some other would-be customers are. I most often am met with the "sentries" moving aside, sometimes opening the door and offering a friendly greeting. I don't know if this is because of my skin color or white hair, my feeble limping making my vulnerability more evident. What could be seen as a weakness can often become a strength of independence. If I flip that thought, I can apply it to some of the Souls.

In my observing the roaming individuals, I don't see identifying colors of gangs of the past. I see some exchanges of hand grips. With too many greetings I see in the faces (these are my perceptions, not necessarily the truths of the individual) hinting of pain, loss, loneliness, and disconnection.

Some conversations I've had were brief — two young men who stopped in front of me and without introduction, emptied a backpack and created a sidewalk display of large containers of TIDE and other detergents at my feet, saying "Forty dollars for all of this." I passed on the offer, but all the detergent was sold to several customers within minutes. Other conversations were a bit longer. Two young men standing on the sidewalk against the window of Dao Thai Pho. A friend and I were eating lunch inside, at a window table. The sidewalk from one end

of the strip was largely empty; so why did the two young men choose to stand, blocking our view of the parking lot with their leather-clad bodies? I went out to ask.

I introduced myself and we shook hands. SoLow and Dose were their names. Dose had an absolutely beautiful smile and dreads. SoLow (Low to the ground) had a wariness to him, even in his handshake, not willing to trust. I shared my viewpoint of being a customer with a diminished view of the 'show' outside. "Why aren't you eating at Leo's Chow Mein?" asked SoLow. I explained Leo's closing plans and my wanting to support Dao Thai Pho because the parking lot activity is keeping many would-be customers away. I told how standing in front of the doors, even though I've never been asked for money or have been spoken to rudely keeps some away. We chatted about where we lived and schools. Dose and I hugged; SoLow and I sort of hugged.

In the days following, I kept thinking about Dose and SoLow; about my drug contact. Their faces keep appearing in my visual mind. Their voices and tones, reflecting past and future. I want to be a factor in their futures. A few days later I was at a newly opened East 7th Street coffee shop, *Cafeto*, to meet a friend. As she was later leaving, two men stood up and reintroduced themselves - Ofir Germanic and his friend, Avi. The funny thing is, in the prior day or two I was trying to connect with Ofir. I had met him several years ago when Ofir was director of the Sunneh Rec center. I met with him then in connection with my two young neighbors at the time. Here he was!

He briefed me on his program for youth, *World Youth Connect*, "...an ethnically diverse collaborative organization designed to impact the lives of youth and young adults between the ages of 12-25 years old".

How perfect this would be for the Souls!

It's one action to eliminate the activity of Souls and their directors from the strip mall lot. Neng, the property owner, and the business owners who rent the building from him, deserve that respect. It is a separate action to relocate the Souls as a group and/or individually, perhaps introducing them at their young ages to opportunities of hope, productive goals, self-sufficiency, leadership skills, pride in self, and perhaps learning to manage responsibilities; and to recognize and accept consequences that can enrich a life instead of end it.

Contact: worldyouthconnect.org; Ofir Germanic, founder or Sage Holben at uppelto@gmail.com for more information

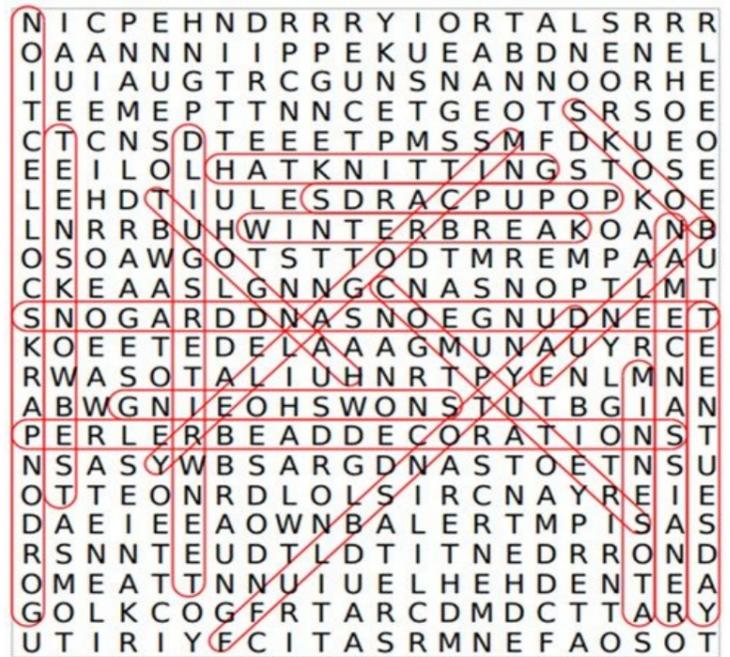
NOTE: Please don't lose sight of the individual!

THE HAMM'S EASTSIDE COMPLEX

Celebrating the past, transforming the future



HammsEastSide.com



The Forum is Hiring an Ad Manager!

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum is hiring! We are looking to add an integral member to our team as we expand and grow our community news source through advertising sales.

This is the perfect opportunity for students with a graphic design, business, or marketing background or degree.

Hours are flexible and training will be provided. Compensation is a generous

25% commission per ad, per month. Experience creating ads is a bonus, but not necessary. Ad manager will be paid once the ad is paid.

If you are looking for gaining experience in advertising or community engagement, please send a short email with your qualifications to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, for consideration in this exciting opportunity.



You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes — send yours to:

daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Want to write about something that interests you? We want to hear it! Submit your stories and articles to the email above.

Opinions expressed in contributed articles may not represent the views of the Forum.

Deadline for the February issue of the Forum January 10

75 Years Ago in Dayton's Bluff

The History of Hudson Road Repeats Itself

Greg Cosimini

Until the late 1940s, Hudson Road was just a normal, surface-level street with an active business district from Cypress Street east to Frank Street, with a cluster of businesses near Earl Street. A streetcar line ran east on Hudson Road and turned south on Earl Street. Pedestrians and vehicles could cross Hudson Road, the same as any other street in the neighborhood.

But then the Powers That Be decided that Highway 12 should cut through Dayton's Bluff and the destruction began. Hudson Road and all the businesses and homes on the south side of the street were razed along with the homes on the north side of Pacific Street and everything in between. The area became a canyon that could only be crossed via a new bridge at Earl St. and a pedestrian bridge at Cypress for the children going to Mound Park Elementary on the south side of Pacific St.

Hudson Road was torn up right to the sidewalks. The streetcar tracks on Hudson Road and Earl were removed and then rebuilt, only to be made obsolete in a few years when streetcars were replaced by buses. However, there were two good results from this project. First, the Earl-Hudson businesses could still be seen from both Highway 12 below and the homes so on its south side. And sec-

ond, an off ramp from east-bound Highway 12 to Earl St. was built to provide access to the area.

In the Nov. 24, 1949 *Pioneer Press*, there was a photo of a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the partial opening of the new Hudson Road although the project wouldn't be completed until the next year. Most businesses, not counting those that had been located on the south side of Hudson Road, had survived the construction, helped by the fact that in those days many people walked to the stores located there.

What remained of the business district did fairly well until the next shoe dropped — the construction of I-94 built in the late 1960s which replaced Highway 12. There were minimal direct consequences of this project to the Earl-Hudson businesses but two aspects of the project were devastating to the area. The Earl Street exit was eliminated and the construction of the noise barrier blocked the view of the area from the rest of the world.

But wait! There's more! In the first part of the 21st century the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project was conceived with a route that would take it through Dayton's Bluff along Hudson Road with a station at Earl Street. Thousands of riders each day were promised who would descend on the Earl-Hudson area and revitalize the businesses located there. Once again Hudson Road was torn up, the old streetcars tracks were removed and there was disruption for years, coming right after the disruption caused by the Pandemic. The Gold Line opened in March 2025 but so far, the nearly empty buses haven't delivered any benefit to the businesses in the Earl-Hudson area.



Greg Cosimini

History repeats itself on Hudson Road. Top: In 1949, Hudson Road has been totally removed in order to construct Highway 12. (Minnesota Historical Society photo) Above: In 2023, in an eerily similar photo, the businesses in the same section of Hudson Road are once again left without street access during Gold Line construction.

The Gordon Parks Gallery Presents:

Earth Odyssey: A Multi-media Exhibition by Zoe Cinel

Metro State University

Presented for the first time in this multi-media exhibition is a body of work that Zoe Cinel has been creating since 2018, when they started the process to become a non-resident alien with extraordinary abilities. About their experience, the artist writes, "It is challenging and highly performative. The labor is invisible, the hopes are high, and it takes a village to keep an alien in this country. To cope, I turned it into a journey, wearing the "alienness" as an extraordinary superpower, as a costume to protect my vulnerability. And so began my *Earth Odyssey!*"

Longing for home, Cinel - dressed as

their alter ego "The Alien" - traveled far east and west, exploring the nation's iconic landscapes, symbols and pop/media culture references, feeling a sense of familiarity yet estrangement. In Cinel's words, "When visiting new places as "The Alien" I asked myself: how do I relate to new geographies, iconic landmarks, and places of memory? Traveling with a silver suit and a camera, I intuitively stop to capture real landscapes that I encounter, drawn to places that are surreal yet (somewhat) familiar: a giant pastry-themed carousel in an empty food court, an abandoned vintage car next to a sign that says 'danger, rattlesnakes' in the middle of the desert, a brutalist Gotham-like subway."

They conclude, "The Alien suit is my armor. An embodiment carrying roots of a distant land. And a visualization of the red, pulsing sensation of being forever split between places and cultures."

The exhibit runs through Thursday, December 4. Gallery hours are 1 to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gallery is located on the first floor of the Library and Learning Center, 645 East Seventh Street, at Metro State University's Saint Paul Campus.



FRIENDS OF SWEDE HOLLOW ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Where: Yarusso Bros. Italian Restaurant
635 Payne Ave.

Serving the neighborhood since 1933

When: December 19th, 6:00 pm

Menu: Choice of items below include salad and a glass of wine or another beverage

- Spaghetti and Meatball
- Mostaccioli and Meatball
- Dago Sandwich
- Fettuccini Alfredo

\$16.00 plus tax and tip

What to expect?

- Games with door prizes
- Drawings for prizes
- Historical storyteller
- Fun and good cheer

East Side Elders Services

East Side Elders

Rides (transportation program re-opening soon)

Many seniors have given up their car keys but still need to get out and about. Volunteer drivers take seniors to medical appointments, the grocery store and other destinations such as a senior program or special events.

Friendly Callers (in-person visits currently on hold)

A friendly chat can do a great deal of good for a senior who is unable to leave their home, particularly in bad weather, or doesn't have family around to drop in to make sure all is OK. ESE volunteers can be matched with a specific senior, or can be on-call on an as-needed basis. A quick phone call is sometimes all that is needed to make sure that the senior has what they need.

Chores

Volunteers can help with outdoor and indoor chores such as changing a light-bulb, organizing a closet, or raking leaves.

Weekly Wellness Program

Volunteer nurses and other healthcare volunteers can check your vital signs, such as blood pressure, talk to you about good nutrition, or your health in general. We offer the Weekly Wellness Program for the residents at Parkway Gardens Apartments and the Elders Lodge.

Caregiver Support

Our staff will work with you to see how we can best support you in your caregiver journey. Give us a call today!

Legal Clinics (currently on hold)

Our volunteer lawyers can help you with a will, healthcare directive, or power of attorney. Call us today to ask about our next clinic.

Resource Referral

The East Side Elder's program staff are a great resource for information about other services in the area — give us a call today at 763-325-3473 or 651-335-8840.

East Side Elders



Mounds Park Wildlife

Photos by Bob Roth



Councilwoman Cheniqua Johnson's only agenda is getting work done for us!

Ward 7, these past two years have flown by. It's my honor to represent you on the Saint Paul City Council as your Ward 7 Councilmember. Elected in 2023, sworn in January 2024, our office has been working since day one to ensure we deliver for you and our community. I thank you for your continued support.

Spring 2026, East Side, there's work to do. Here's just a few:

Standby our renters and homeowners.

We must enforce and implement the Tenant Protections Ordinance. We must also continue our Evictions Prevention emergency rental assistance program. Property tax relief is desperately needed. For homeowners, expanding the tax base is our greatest strategy for getting there.

Support the building of more affordable housing on the East Side

The Hamm's Brewery Redevelopment project must be protected. Ward 7 Councilmembers Lantry, Finney, Prince, and now, I, Councilmember Johnson, have all worked to ensure that the Hamm's Brewery Redevelopment Site preserves the old and brings in the new to provide homes for East Siders.

Protect our Streets & ensure we have safe communities.

We must crack down on the amount of speeding, illegal dumping, abandoned cars, nuisance properties, vacant buildings, and potholes in our community. Do not hesitate to contact our office to report anything that you see.

Protect our climate and take action.

Northern Iron, Pigs Eye Lake, Power of Homes & Healthy Homes programs, Earl Street reconstruction and bike lane project, Evie car share, etc. all require our immediate attention.

Support our East Side Businesses, especially along East 7th

2026 means the State will begin their reconstruction process for East 7th. Our office will work to ensure Metro Transit is in community, working with our community, and keeping us informed.

Cheniqua Johnson

ST. PAUL CITY COUNCIL WARD 7



Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson, a Dayton's Bluff Councilwoman who works with the East Side for the East Side

Office Email: Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Email: campaign@cheniquajohnson.com
Phone: 651-266-8670

Website: www.cheniquajohnson.com

Prepared and paid for by Neighbors for Cheniqua, PO Box 600754, St. Paul, MN 55106

Councilmember Johnson represents us on these Boards & Commissions

Saint Paul Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Chair
Saint Paul Port Authority, Treasurer
Full Stack Saint Paul, Co-Chair
Ramsey County's Heading Home Ramsey
Continuum of Care, Vice Chair

Red Rock Corridor Commission
Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee
Board of Water Commissioners, Vice Chair
Land Bank Twin Cities Board Member
Minnesota Housing Finance Board Member

Echoes from the Bluff

Jared Arvin

From up here, the city glows like warm breath in cold air. The skyline rises out of the dark, a scatter of lights across the river that looks close enough to reach if you just kept walking. But the Bluff has its own rhythm, slower and steadier than downtown's rush.

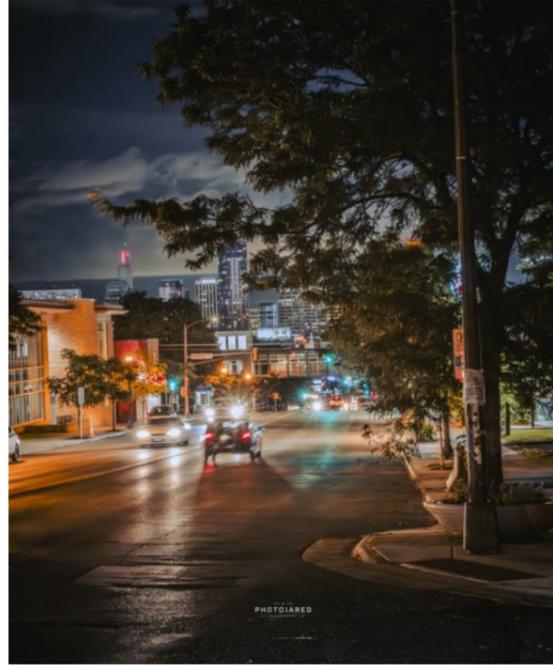
East 7th Street runs through it like a main artery, pulsing with headlights, stoplights, diners, and corner bars. The sound of tires on wet pavement fades into the distance, replaced by the small noises that make a place feel alive: a door shutting, music drifting from a passing car, the faint whistle of a train cutting through the quiet.

You can feel history here. It's in the brickwork, in the worn steps, in the way the streets rise and fall like memory. The Bluff has seen generations pass through; families who built their lives here, artists who stayed, dreamers who left and came back.

Some nights the air feels heavy with stories. Other nights it feels like a clean slate, waiting for someone to add another. The view of the city reminds you that life keeps going, that light finds its way up the hill no matter how long the night lasts.

There's beauty in that persistence, in a place that keeps its quiet while the world rushes by below. Dayton's Bluff doesn't need to announce itself. It just stands here, watching the lights flicker, holding the city close without losing itself.

Photo to the right by Jared Arvin



Donate Your Extra Paper Grocery Bags!

Keystone Community Services

Have extra paper grocery bags? You can donate them to our Keystone Community Food Center! Paper bags are used at our Food Center to provide program participants with a way to carry their groceries home. We will take any reusable paper or plastic bags and put them to use!

Drop off location:
1800 University Ave W.
St. Paul, MN 55104

Drop off bags during our donation hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 1- 4 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-noon and 3-6 p.m.

Learn more:
keystoneservices.org/



Measles Immunization Clinic Information

Ramsey County

Measles is in our community; don't wait, vaccinate your kids! Visit your doctor or contact the Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health Immunization Clinic at 651-266-1234 to get caught up on immunizations. Learn more at Measles is in our community; don't wait, vaccinate your kids! Visit your doctor or contact the Saint Paul — Ramsey County Public Health Immunization Clinic at 651-266-1234 to get caught up on immunizations.



Some Recipes From an East Side Hospital

Found by Steve Trimble

The following are East Side recipes from "Creative Cooks Who Share" — a book published by St. John's Hospital. The institution was at the corner where Metro State University now sets.

Since the holidays are rapidly approaching, I thought you would like to see recipes for three foods with holiday themes. At least I usually see Green Bean casserole. Send the paper some photos of these or your favorite holiday eating.



Italian Bucilato

Joan Anello

- 8 teaspoons butter
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon whiskey or brandy
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup anise seed
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup chopped nuts

Cream butter, add sugar, and beat until fluffy. Add eggs and beat. Add flour and baking powder alternately with milk. Add vanilla, whiskey, anise seed., nuts and beat. Pour into greased and floured tube pan and bake in slow oven 300-325 °F for 1 hour. Slice thin when ready to serve.



Green Bean Casserole

Marge Thoele

- 1 can French style green beans
- ¼ teaspoon basil
- 1 can French fried onions
- ½ cup cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 3 slices bacon, partially cooked
- 1 can milk



Put together layers of drained beans and onions in a casserole. Mix soup, milk and basil. Pour over beans and onions. Sprinkle cheese on top, and crumble bacon over cheese. Bake at 375 °F for 30 minutes.

Holiday Punch

Mickey Paderson
St. John's Hospital, St. Paul

- 2 ½ cups water
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 pint cranberry juice
- 1 cup frozen orange juice
- 16 ounces bottled ginger ale
- 2 cups vodka (optional)



Cook water and sugar together, boil 5 min. Combine the 3 juices and the sugar water. Mix well. Just before serving add last 2 ingredients and pour over ice ring or 3 trays of ice cubes in a punch bowl. (Recipe doubles easily).

Enjoy Winter at Ramsey County Parks

Ramsey County



Ramsey County Parks & Recreation offers a wide variety of outdoor activities for all ages all year round! Head to

the park and embrace the fun of winter — go sledding, skiing, snowshoeing and more. Here's what you can expect to find during the upcoming season.

Ramsey County is home to nine county parks, six regional parks and five regional trail corridors.

All parks offer plowed parking or easy street parking, and as always, entry and parking are free. Portable toilets are available at select locations.

Winter break fun!

Spend winter break with us at the new ski trails and sledding hills at Battle Creek Regional Park! We will have cross-country skis, sleds, and kick-sleds to try for free. If you decide you'd like to keep the fun going and want to ski the trails at the park, rental ski equipment will be available at Battle Creek Rec Center for \$12/person and we will cover the cost of a daily ski pass!

Open ice skating and hockey

Sharpen your ice skating skills, try cross-country skiing, enjoy walking indoors or join others for an easy-going pickup game of hockey this season. Dates are set for Open Skate, Open Hockey, and Open Walking! Admission is free and open to the public, and all skill levels are welcome.

Ice skate rental is free at Highland Arena and TCO Sports Garden during Open Skate.

Toddler Tuesdays & Thursdays at the CCCU Fieldhouse

Have a little one that's full of energy? They can enjoy indoor fun at the CCCU fieldhouse on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. We'll have activities such as a bouncy house, kicking around soccer balls and open field time with room to run. Admission is free and open to the public.

Cross-country skiing

We've partnered with the city of Saint Paul to offer more ski trails this winter. Enjoy 32 miles of marked and groomed natural snow ski trails at Battle

Creek Regional Park, Rice Creek Regional Trail, Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park, Tamarack Nature Center, Como Park Golf Course, Highland 9 Golf Course, and Phalen Golf Course. Battle Creek Regional Park West now offers 4 km of machine-made snow trails that are lighted for skiing from sunset until 10 p.m. A Ramsey County and Saint Paul ski pass is required to ski on all trails for skiers age 16 and above.

Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing is permitted in all parks except on designated and groomed cross-country ski trails or areas plowed for pedestrians. Visit the designated snowshoe trail at Tamarack Nature Center, or see why the multi-use groomed trail at Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park is a local favorite.

Ski and snowshoe rentals

No skis or snowshoes? No problem. Cross-country ski rentals are available at the Battle Creek Recreation Center again this year. Call 651-775-7594 for more information. Tamarack Nature Center also offers on-site cross-country ski and snowshoe rental. The Winter Recreation Rental Shack will outfit you with everything you need for a scenic winter trek through the snow-covered prairie and woodland. The rental shack is anticipated to reopen in December, weather permitting. Hours throughout the season may be dependent on snow and trail conditions.

Sledding & tubing

Fly down the snowy slopes of our designated sledding areas at Battle Creek Regional Park, Rice Creek Regional Trail, Tamarack Nature Center, and Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park.

Trails

Take to the trails by foot, snowshoes, or fat bike. All regional trails will be plowed and accessible throughout the winter, and each park has opportunities to use plowed, multi-use or natural snow trails. Explore the winding trails that offer a spectacular look at Ramsey County's diverse landscape.

Other winter fun

County park boat launches will be open and plowed for ice fishing and other lake activities. Winter can be an excellent time to bird watch, and the parks are a great setting for this activity, with about 35 species to look out for this time of year.

Find more information at ramseycounty.us/content/enjoy-winter-ramsey-county-parks.

Dayton's Bluff and the St. Paul Winter Carnival

Greg Cosimini

Dayton's Bluff and the St. Paul Winter Carnival have a long history together, starting at the very beginning in 1886. William Hamm Sr., founder of Hamm's Brewery, was involved in its creation and may, or may not, have been the first King Boreas. There is still a controversy over that.

In 1887, there was an Ice Tower and toboggan run built in Dayton's Bluff, followed over the years by toboggan runs built in various locations in the neighborhood. There were also skiing competitions held at ski jumps built in Indian Mounds Park. These were located south of where Johnson Parkway intersects Burns Ave. and shouldn't be confused with the giant ski jump that once stood in Battle Creek Park and also hosted Winter Carnival ski jump competitions.

Dayton's Bluff was home to the 1938

Winter Carnival Ice Palace, also known as the Ice Court. It had an art deco design, was brightly lit at night with multi-colored electric lights, and featured two huge semicircular ice discs acting as a backdrop to a large ice throne at the top of a grand ice staircase. A 300 x 100 foot skating rink spread out in front of the throne. It was built near Plum St. and Mounds Boulevard in what is now the west end of Indian Mounds Park.

Besides Hamm's Brewery, Dayton's Bluff eventually became home to other large businesses including Whirlpool and Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (now 3M). These companies, along with the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club, sponsored floats and marching units in the Winter Carnival parades and Queen of the Snow princess candidates.

Dayton's Bluff has also been a participant in another popular Winter Carnival activity — the Treasure Hunt. The medallion was hidden, and found, in both Indian Mounds Park and Swede Hollow several times.

The Saint Paul Winter Carnival will run from January 22 through February 1. Find more information about all the events at wintercarnival.com/.



From the Postcard Collection of Greg Cosimini

The 1938 Ice Palace in Mounds Park.



MN Historical Society

The 1930s Dayton's Bluff Carnival Club float.



Need food now?

Visit Hunger Solutions' website or call 1-888-711-1151 to find a local food shelf

hungersolutions.org/



2025 Twin Cities Santa Claus Events

Visit Saint Paul

Santa makes many stops in St Paul to visit with kids and their families. Unique experiences include the chance to meet Santa on the rails this holiday season: on the North Pole Express at Union Depot, at Santa's Train Shop at Jackson Street Roundhouse and at the Twin City Model Railroad Museum. All aboard!

Union Depot European Christmas Market

Date: Weekends through December 21 noon-6 p.m.
 Location: Union Depot, 214 4th Street East, St Paul
 Cost: Free

Based on the European open air Christkindlmarkts like those in Germany and Austria, this is a free event to attend with the opportunity to shop for unique, handmade gifts and decorations as well as nosh on holiday treats. December 6 is Union Depot's Tree Lighting and Movie Night. Come early for Santa and stick around for the festivities!

North Pole Express

Date: December 5-7 and 11-14
 Location: Union Depot, 214 4th Street East, St Paul
 Cost: \$43-\$68

Guests travel in vintage railcars with Santa through hundreds of luminaries. Then roast marshmallows on a fire. Sells out quickly, get on their email list for updates when tickets go on sale.

Linden Hills Reindeer Day

Date: December 6—10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Location: Linden Hills Neighborhood, 43rd Street and Upton Avenue South,

Linden Hills

Linden Hills neighborhood hosts a day of family fun. Participate in activities around the neighborhood. Take photos with Santa, visit with Reindeer, make holiday crafts, and enjoy live entertainment.

Christmas in Germany

Dates: December 6, 7—10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Location: Germanic-American Institute, 301 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

GAI hosts its annual Holiday Open House with a new name. Participate in Christmas traditions of Germany, including Lebkuchen cookies, St. Nikolaus, and German carols. Kids can meet Sankt Nikolaus, listen to a Christmas storytime, make holiday crafts, and view model train displays. Events both indoors and outdoors in a heated tent. Ticketed timed entry required.

Valley Creek Santa Saturday

Date: December 6, 13, 20—10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury
 Cost: Free

Santa — live and in person — at Valley Creek Mall on Santa Saturdays. Drop-In. All Ages.

Photos with Santa

December 7—3:30-5:30 p.m.
 Location: 3rd Act Brewery, 4120 Radio Drive

Drop in to 3rd Act Brewery for a chance to meet with Santa and take photos. Bring your own camera and the staff will take photos for you. Treat bags and coloring sheets will be available for kids.

Christmas Family Fun Day

Date: December 10—10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Location: Midtown Global Market, 920 E Lake St, Minneapolis

Cost: Free

Celebrate the holidays at Midtown Global Market. Look for Santa, live music, crafts, reindeer stops, and more! Drop In. All Ages.

Merry Market

Dates: December 13, 14—10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Location: Minnesota State Fairgrounds, 1265 Snelling Avenue North, Saint Paul
 Cost: Free

A festive, indoor holiday shopping event featuring local handcrafted gifts. Santa will be at the holiday market to visit and take photos with the family. Kid-friendly fun includes train and horse-drawn trolley rides, food trucks, and Christmas crafts. All Ages. Drop In.

Santa Night at Night Trains

Date: December 13—3-7 p.m.
 Location: Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Rd Ste. 8, St Paul
 Cost: \$15

Night Trains runs every Saturday night through February, but on these two nights only, visitors can meet with Santa: December 13, 20, 3-7 p.m.

Santa's Workshop at Landmark Center

Date: December 14—1-3 p.m.
 Landmark Center, 75 West Fifth Street, Saint Paul
 Cost: Free

Snap a free pic with Santa and then enjoy games, festive animals, and gift-making. Drop-In. All Ages.

Check out familyfuntwincities.com/santa-claus/ for more information and more events in the Twin Cities.



Friends of the Forum 2025

Make a donation today!

Greg Cosimini

Mark Gallagher

Ron Bardell

Dennis and Gail Alexander

Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around \$1,000 to produce per month. We have found a new printer and have adjusted the cost to print each month.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the *Forum* program. Thanks to the donations from readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running. If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning. If you have been our Friend in the past, please consider making a tax-deductible donation in 2025. Our goal for 2025 is \$2,500; will you help us reach our goal?

Yes, I will become a Friend of the *Forum*. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount _____

Or give online: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Make checks payable to: *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to 1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

Read our paper online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org